

AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS

1. (Currently amended) A method of using a functional beverage to treat or prevent hyperlipidemia or gallbladder/liver disorders reducing triglyceride levels in an individual in need thereof, comprising administering to said individual a functional beverage, wherein the functional beverage contains comprises 1 mg to 30 mg/100 ml of at least one kind catechin selected from the group consisting of epigallocatechin-3-O-(3-O-methyl) gallate, epicatechin-3-O-(3-O-methyl) gallate, epigallocatechin-3-O-(4-O-methyl) gallate, gallicatechin-3-O-(3-O-methyl) gallate, catechin-3-O-(3-O-methyl) gallate, catechin-3-O-(4-O-methyl) gallate, gallicatechin-3-O-(4-O-methyl) gallate, and isomers stereoisomers thereof, wherein said catechins are derived from tea leaves of at least one selected from the group consisting of "Benifuuki", "Benifuji", "Benihomare", "Yaevo", "Surugawase", "Yutakamidori", "Kanayamidori", "Okumusashi", "Seishin-taipan", "Seishin-oolong", "Ohba-oolong", "Benibana", "Benihikari", "Yamakai", "Yamamideri", "Karabeni", "Koushun", "Souhuu", "Okumidori" Benifuuki, Benifuji, Benihomare, Yacho, Surugawase, Yutakamidori, Kanayamidori, Okumusashi, Seishin-taipan, Seishin-oolong, Ohba-oolong, Benibana, Benihikari, Yamakai, Yamamidori, Karabeni, Koushun, Souhuu, Okumidori and mixtures thereof.

2. (Currently amended) The functional beverage method according to claim 1, wherein the functional beverage is produced by extracting tea leaves.

3. (Cancelled)

4. (Cancelled)

5. (Currently amended) The functional beverage method according to claim 1, wherein the functional beverage is labeled to be effective for at least one of suppressing allergic rhinitis and effective for improving hyperlipidemia and gallbladder/liver function.

6. (Currently amended) A method of using a composition to treat or prevent hyperlipidemia or gallbladder/liver disorders reducing triglyceride levels in an individual in need thereof, comprising administering to said individual a wherein the composition contains comprising an a constitutive effective amount of at least one kind of active ingredient catechin

selected from the group consisting of epigallocatechin-3-O-(3-O-methyl) gallate, epicatechin-3-O-(3-O-methyl) gallate, epigallocatechin-3-O-(4-O-methyl) gallate, gallocatechin-3-O-(3-O-methyl) gallate, catechin-3-O-(3-O-methyl) gallate, catechin-3-O-(4-O-methyl) gallate, gallocatechin-3-O-(4-O-methyl) gallate, and isomers stereoisomers thereof, wherein said catechins are derived from tea leaves of at least one selected from the group consisting of "Benifuuki", "Benifuji", "Benihemare", "Yaevo", "Surugawase", "Yutakamidori", "Kanayamidori", "Okumusashi", "Seishin-taipan", "Seishin-oolong", "Ohba-oolong", "Benibana", "Benihikari", "Yamakai", "Yamamidori", "Karabeni", "Koushun", "Souhuu", "Okumidori" Benifuuki, Benifuji, Benihomare, Yacho, Surugawase, Yutakamidori, Kanayamidori, Okumusashi, Seishin-taipan, Seishin-oolong, Ohba-oolong, Benibana, Benihikari, Yamakai, Yamamidori, Karabeni, Koushun, Souhuu, Okumidori and mixtures thereof.

7. (Currently amended) The composition method according to claim 6, wherein the composition is a food/beverage, internal medicine, liniment, nose wash, nose drops, cosmetic or eye drops.